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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant:** Frank Wheeler et al.  
**Application No.:** 09/978,477  
**Filed:** October 16, 2001  
**For:** DEFLECTION CLIP

) **Group Art:**  
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) **Examiner:**  
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**Box Non-Fee**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**Washington, D.C. 20231**

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**GROUP 3600**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir/Madam:

This Preliminary Amendment is filed before a first Office Action for the Application filed on October 16, 2001.

**In the Drawings**

The Applicants submit herewith a formal set of drawings to replace the informal drawings originally filed. The replacement drawings more particularly set forth and explain the embodiments of the present invention.

**In the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 1 with the following paragraph:

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